

Thomas Van Buskirk House
East Saddle River Road
Saddle River, Bergen County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Thomas Van Buskirk House
East Saddle River Road
Saddle River, Bergen County, New Jersey

Owner: William J. Bond

Date of Erection: East end of stone portion built
1708; west end of stone portion
built 1770; frame wing built
about 1880

Architect:

Builder: Thomas Van Buskirk

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - sandstone

Exterior walls - red sandstone
dressed

Interior walls - plaster,
4x4 oak studs two feet on
center filled with stone

Roof - originally gambrel,
raised to pitch in 1825

Historical Data:

The land upon which this house was built
was originally acquired from the Indians by Albert
Zaborowsky, who sold half of it to Thomas Van
Bosskerk.

The founder of the Van Buskirk family in
this country was Lourns Andriessen, who was a native

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of the Province of Holstein in Denmark. He was a tanner by trade and came to America in 1665. Shortly after his immigration to America he took the surname of Van Buskirk, the Van signifying "from" and Bos Kerck meaning "Church in the woods".

In January, 1676, he bought a large tract of land north and east of Hackensack, known as New Hackensack, upon which he resided as early as 1688. The property remained in the possession of Thomas Van Buskirk until 1921 when the present owner acquired it.

Bibliography:

Harvey, C.B. Genealogical History of Hudson and Bergen Counties New York, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1900

Dunlop, Wallace, local historian

Walter E. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

Seymour Williams
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, A.I.A.
District Officer

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A D D E N D U M

We mentioned in the original history that Albert Zabriskie bought the land upon which this house stands and sold half of it to Thomas Van Buskirk. However, no dates were specified. The Wearimus tract as it is known was bought in 1702; six years later half of it was sold to Thomas Van Buskirk. This sale is recorded on the reverse of the original Indian deed now owned by J. Hosey Osborn of Passaic a descendant of the Van Buskirks.

Miss Bailey has the following information about Lourns or Laurens Andriessen¹. She says he came to America about 1654, eleven years earlier than our date, and that he bought land at Mingackwa, Greenville, Jersey City, about 1662 and built a house there. The first member of the family in America was an important figure in old Bergen. He was a Justice of the Peace, Judge of Bergen County, and member of the council under several governors. By a joint will of 1769 the homestead went to his sons Peter² and Thomas². Thomas sold out and moved to Saddle River.

The original unit of the present house was built by Thomas or his son. It was built in many sections. The first unit was erected in the early eighteenth century and is constructed of stone quarried on the hill of the farm. It consisted of one large room and a gable roof and is the northeast corner of the present house. There is no cellar under this section. De Witt Clinton mentions a stone house in the survey of this section in 1734. It was later enlarged - a wide hall and another room were added. In the nineteenth century the frame story and porch was built.

The house before the Revolutionary War was used as an inn and the garret above served as a place for public meetings. The first church services in the

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valley were held in this garret, and the Lutherans continued to hold services here until their church, (NJ-330) was erected nearby in 1820 on land donated by Thomas Van Buskirk. During the Revolutionary War soldiers were billeted here. Thomas Van Buskirk, the last Van Buskirk owner, was a slave holder and owner of the last slave in the vicinity.

Bibliography:

Bailey, R. F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, William Morrow and Company, 1936

William E. Rutt
Supervising Historian